

HOUSE BUDGET REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the 2023 Regular Session

February 8, 2023

Call to Order and Roll Call

The 1st meeting of the House Budget Review Subcommittee on Health and Family Services was held on February 8, 2023, at 10:00 AM in Room 169 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Danny Bentley, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Representative Danny Bentley, Chair; Representative Kimberly Poore Moser, Representative Adam Bowling, Representative Ken Fleming, and Representative Lisa Willner.

Guests: Angela Renae Sageser, M.S., CCC-SLP, Chief Executive Officer, Associates in Pediatric Therapies

LRC Staff: Miriam Fordham, Kevin Newton, and Amie Elam.

Medicaid Reimbursement for Pediatric Therapeutic Services

Angela Renea Sageser, Associates in Pediatric Therapy, testified regarding rate increases for Medicaid therapy services. She requested a 20 percent rate increase for current providers and increased accountability measures for managed care organizations (MCOs).

In response to a question from Representative Bowling, Ms. Sageser said she would provide additional information to the committee within the next two weeks regarding proposals for MCO rate increase guidelines.

In response to a question from Representative Willner, Ms. Sageser said that she would work with other providers to provide specific legislative proposals for the General Assembly to consider.

In response to a question from Representative Moser, Ms. Sageser said that Associates in Pediatric Therapy (APT) representatives met with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (Cabinet) last week to discuss First Steps, specifically, the Coaching Program. She said the Cabinet is receptive to working with APT to reduce the burden on providers.

In response to a question from Chair Bentley, Ms. Sageser said that the First Steps Coaching Program has providers training parents instead of doing hands-on work with children. She added that the intensity of the coaching program is driving providers away.

In response to a question from Representative Fleming, Ms. Sageser said that the dollar amount needed to provide a 20 percent increase for First Steps providers would be approximately \$3 million statewide. She said that for Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) the cost would be approximately \$600,000. Ms. Sageser said that for each increase a portion of funds would be federal dollars.

In response to a question from Representative Bowling, Ms. Sageser said that negotiating rates with MCOs can be difficult for providers. She added that MCOs are known for doing things they should not do during negotiations.

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting adjourned at 10:42 a.m.